

Family Literacy Project Objectives

Objective 1: To develop, direct, and coordinate a statewide Family Literacy and Career information model for Iowa community colleges.

Objective 2: To collaborate with the National Literacy Center to create and deliver staff development activities of the Iowa Family Literacy Model.

Objective 3: To develop the research design and methodology to measure the impact of the Iowa Family Literacy Model during the funding period.



Program Highlights

ROUND ONE

Eastern Iowa Community College District

Partners: Scotty County YMCA, Davenport Public Library, Scott County Health Dept., Head Start, elementary schools in Davenport, Clinton, and Muscatine, and Iowa State University Extension (30 families, focusing on Spanish-speaking families.)

Hawkeye Community College

Partners: Waterloo Schools Early Childhood classes, Head Start, Title I, and the Every Child Reads project (20 families, focusing on Bosnian and Hispanic families, low socioeconomic families and those families with low literacy skills.)

Iowa Central Community College

Partners: Storm Lake and Fort Dodge Community School Districts, Head Start. (Fort Dodge program- 22 families, focusing on low socio-economic families, and high school students who are parenting or pregnant and African-American students in need of reading assistance; Storm Lake program (50 families, focusing on low socio-economic families and those in need of English literacy classes)

Iowa Lakes Community College

Partners: Estherville Lincoln Central Community School District and Prevent Child Abuse Iowa (20-30 families, focusing on families not persisting in Even Start, participants in ABE/GED/English literacy classes with children and students attending the Alternative High School who are parenting)

Iowa Valley Community College District

Partners: Marshalltown Central Business District, St Paul's Episcopal Church, AEA 267, Iowa State University Extension, Marshall County Childcare Services, Iowa Workforce Development Center, and two area Catholic Churches (15-20, focusing on families whose native language is not English)

Iowa Western Community College

Partners: Council Bluffs Centro Latino, Broadway Methodist Church, and the Lutheran Social Service's Building Families Boutique (20-30 families, focusing on Hispanic population)

North Iowa Area Community College

Partners: Mason City Community School District, Head Start, and AEA 267 (10-15 families, focusing on single parent households and families eligible for Head Start)

Northwest Iowa Community College

Partner: Boyden-Hull Community School District. (approx. five families [10 adults and 20 children] that have limited English ability or low socioeconomic status--specifically the growing Hispanic population)

Southwestern Community College

Partners: The Village Early Childhood Center along with over 20 local agencies, industries, and organizations (15 families, focusing on the Hispanic/Latino population)

ROUND TWO

Indian Hills Community College

Partners: Ottumwa Community School District (40 families will be enrolled with a concentrated effort to encourage participation of Hispanic families)

Kirkwood Community College

Partners: Iowa City Community School District, three established Resource Centers and community-based resources (75 adult learners and their children who either live at the Regency Mobile Home Court or the children attend Horace Mann Elementary School)

Northeast Iowa Community College

Partners: St. Mary's Child Care Center and Preschool, Dubuque Public Schools, Head Start, Helping Services of Northeast Iowa, Postville Multicultural Center (Dubuque program will serve eight families per semester. The Postville program plans to serve eight families during its first year)

Southeastern Community College

Partners: "Kid Zone" after school program and Keokuk Community School District (25 families in the Keokuk area)

Western Iowa Tech Community College

Partners: Log Cabin Head Start and Trinity Episcopal Church (24 Hispanic families with low English speaking skills that live in the Denison area)

It is the policy of the Iowa Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age or marital status in its programs or employment practices. If you have questions or grievances related to this policy, please contact the Legal Consultant, Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146, 515/281-5295.

Family Literacy

in Iowa's Community Colleges



Iowa Department of Education
Division of Community Colleges
and Workforce Preparation
Summer 2006

Background

In July 2004 the U.S. Department of Labor awarded Iowa a \$750,000 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Section 503 Incentive Grant to fund innovative job-readiness programs. The grant, administered jointly by the Iowa Department of Education (DE) and Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), focuses on literacy as the essential foundation of success in employment, career growth, and economic self-sufficiency. In addition, the project concentrates on systemic change by establishing a literacy model that promotes achievement and success within the most basic and appropriate institution: *the family*.

About the Family Literacy Project

Although Iowa is recognized as having one of the highest literacy rates in the nation, there are many individuals in the state who need to attain English literacy. This fact is particularly true, and understandable, with populations that are new and growing in our state. In view of the fact that we must grow our workforce to meet projected needs in the future, Iowa's public community colleges are committed to delivering literacy programs throughout the state and play a critical role in providing educational access to a diverse constituency.



Definition of Literacy

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 defines literacy as *"an individual's ability to read, write, speak in English, and compute and solve problems at levels of proficiency necessary to function on the job, in the family of the individual and in society."*

This is a broader view of literacy than just an individual's ability to read, the more traditional concept of literacy. As information and technology have increasingly shaped our society, the skills we need to function successfully have gone beyond reading; literacy has come to include the skills listed in the current definition.

Source: Retrieved from the National Institute for Literacy, www.nifl.gov, January 2005)

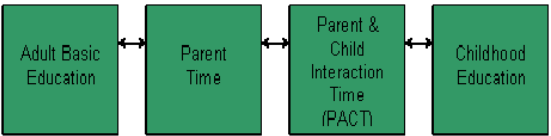
In 1990, 32 million people over the age of 5 in the United States spoke a language other than English in their home, comprising 14 percent of the total U.S. population. By 2000, that number had risen by 47 percent to nearly 47 million, comprising nearly 18 percent of the total U.S. population (U.S. Census Bureau 2002).

Definition of Family Literacy

Family literacy is a term used to describe parents and children, or more broadly, adults and children learning together. The rationale underlying such work is that parents (and adults in communities) are children's first teachers where much learning occurs beyond traditional school settings, and that learning is a lifelong process. Family literacy programs integrate the following activities:



- Interactive literacy activities between parents and children (PACT).
- Education for parents in facilitating children's learning and becoming full partners in their education.
- Parent literacy training that leads to economic self-sufficiency and meets adults' stated goals.
- Age-appropriate education to prepare children for success in school and life experiences.



Parents can be the most consistent teachers in the lives of their children. Parents come to Iowa's community college programs to learn; it makes sense for their children to be part of the learning process too.

Source: Midwest LINCS family literacy special collection, literacy.kent.edu/Midwest/FamilyLit, December 2004.

Iowa Family Literacy Grant Recipients

ROUND ONE: 7/04 – 6/06

In August 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded Iowa a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Section 503 Incentive Grant. The Iowa Department of Education, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, received \$507,094 to put into action an innovative statewide family literacy plan. Grants were initially awarded to nine Iowa community colleges for the implementation of family literacy programming. Those nine community colleges are the Eastern Iowa Community College District, Hawkeye Community College, Iowa Central Community College, Iowa Lakes Community College, Iowa Valley Community College District, Iowa Western Community College, North Iowa Area Community College, Northwest Iowa Community College, and Southwestern Community College.

ROUND TWO: (Part A) 7/05 – 6/07

In July 2005, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded Iowa a second grant. \$560,267 was awarded to continue financial support for existing community college family literacy programs and to develop new programs. With those funds, five additional grants were awarded to:

- Indian Hills Community College
- Kirkwood Community College
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- Southeastern Community College
- Western Iowa Tech Community College

ROUND TWO: (Part B) 7/06 – 6/07

Fourteen (14) community colleges applied for continuations and are receiving grant funds for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. This round focuses on technology and career awareness efforts.

ROUND THREE:

The Iowa Department of Education, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation, is eligible to receive \$445,655 through an incentive grant as authorized under Section 503 of the Workforce Investment Act. In collaboration with the Iowa Workforce Development, a grant application has been submitted. The period of performance for the use of these funds will extend from the point of grant through June 8. The focus of the next round of funding will be "The Working Family".

According to the 2000 Census, there are over 35,000 English language learners in the Iowa adult education target population with almost 15,000 not in the labor force. In addition, the population of English language learners in public schools has increased 202% since 1990. Family literacy makes sense!